

Wm Gwathey

admitted March 11. 1819

18th Dec 1800

For the Honble

the Honble

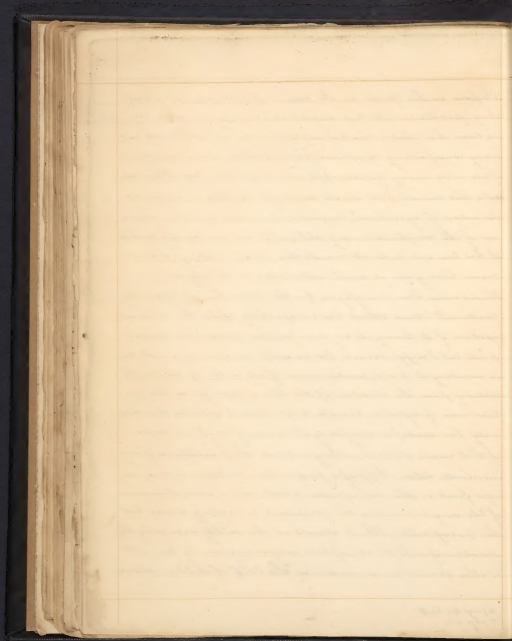
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An Essay on Cholera Infantum.

Considering the very recent and minute history of this disease with which the medical world has been furnished by the learned Doctor Rush, it may be deemed presumptuous in a youthful cultivator of the science to attempt any addition to his very valuable publications; indeed candour urges me to confess that in selecting it as the subject of an inaugural essay I have no expectation of offering a more faithful account of its symptoms than he has detailed, but having enjoyed in the situation which I have the good fortune to occupy considerable opportunity of witnessing this destructive complaint in all its various stages, the efficacy of the means employed to arrest its progress and the appearances or disposition of the dead subject I have thought it perhaps more conducive to the advancement of medicine to give a plain unpolished detail of facts which have come under my observation, than to make a vain effort to demonstrate and establish any favorite physiological theory. From the comparative result of the practices which have been pursued I am also inclined to believe it will be found more successful than that recommended by the writers on this disease.

Cholera appearing in children is first particularly noticed by

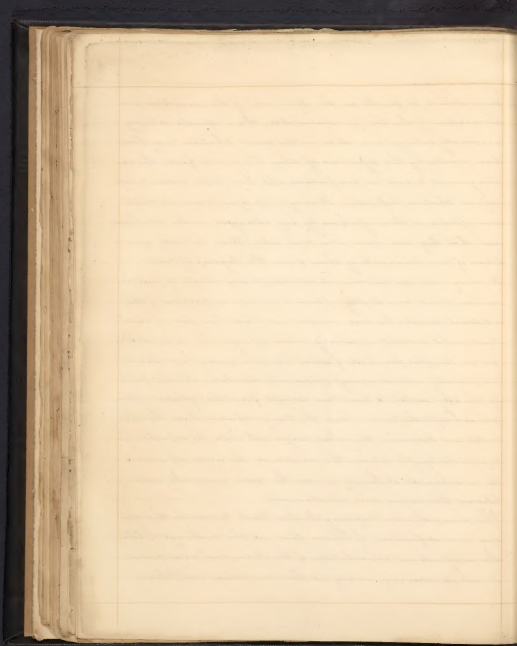
Sydenham in his treatise on the diseases of Menstrua, but almost
 every practical writer has discussed it occurring in adults, and
 we know that cholera morbus and Infantum are attended with so
 many corresponding symptoms and indications that a description
 of one is in many respects applicable to the other. Cullen has dis-
 cussed this disease with much correctness, nor has it escaped the
 observation of Sydenham, he speaks in a more particular man-
 ner of the complaint among children. In our own country, to which
 it has been said to be endemic, Doctors Rush, Miller, Jackson and
 Mann have given us much information on the subject.
 Various causes have been assigned for the production of Cholera In-
 fantum. Dr. Rush I think has satisfactorily refuted the several sup-
 positions of its having its origin in "dentition, worms and summer
 fevers," but I confess I do not feel warranted in concurring with him
 in ascribing it to a "supercrual cause of bile in the system," on the
 contrary from the condition of the liver as displayed in two of
 three cases of dysentery, hereafter to be detailed, it appears that there
 really has existed (as expressed by Dr. Mann of Dr. J.?) "a torpor
 of that viscus," at least nothing indicates the preexistence of any
 insensible action. Suppressed perspiration, dentition, worms, un-
 proper fruits or other improprieties of diet, and a superabundance
 of bile may be considered the occasional or exciting causes, but
 the predisposition I think consists in the debility induced by the
 operation of a heated atmosphere various injuries by local cold
 or other abortitious circumstances. The belief of its bilious charac-



to be stated to be founded on the appearance of the evacuations and the condition of the liver on examination; this is described as being "immensely enlarged and altered in structure". Whatever may have been revealed by the dissections of others I have not found this arrangement to exist in two patients who had fallen victims to acute diffuse Cholera Infantis. It may be proper to remark that I was assisted in these dissections by my colleagues in the Anatomical and that they were made at a time when I had but little opportunity of even transcribing them from the *Registes* of cases.

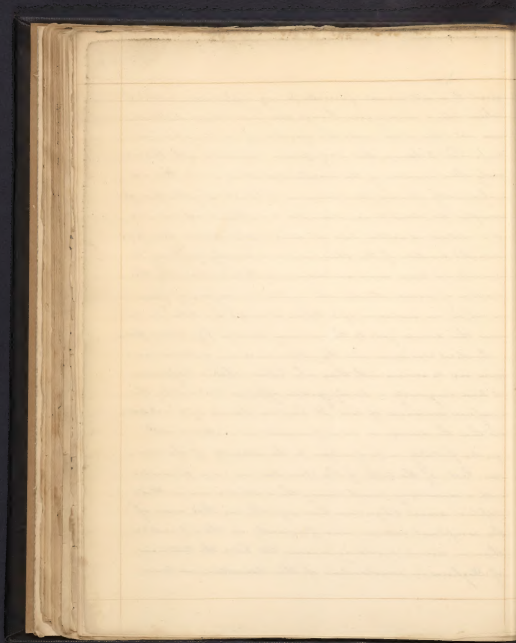
In every instance the stomach exhibited strong marks of inflammation, which was slightly apparent in various portions of the intestinal canal; the liver in one case which has been of some three weeks duration was very much enlarged and pale colored, but in the other two, both of which had been equally protracted, it was perfectly natural in size, colour and structure. All other parts of the body seemed to have been exempt from the influence of the disease except the brain; here the strong adhesion between the dura mater and cranium, the vessels tinged with blood, the deposition of coagulated lymph between the membranes, the serous effusion in the ventricles, all strikingly evince the close sympathy existing between this organ and the stomach.

The circumstances disposing Doctor Rush to consider this disease a modification of bilious fever are the discharge of bile, the remission and exacerbations of the fever, which accompanied it and its occurring nearly at the same season with bilious

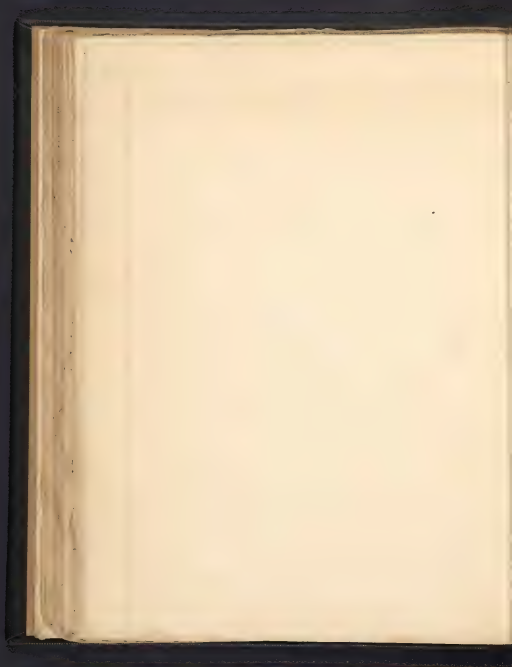


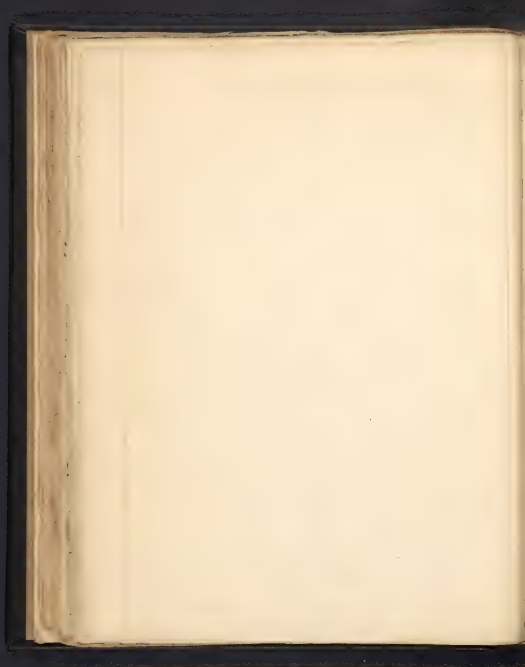
fever. It is not because favorable to my supposition, or that I believe bile is never ejected (though this I am inclined to think does not take place outside the operation of vomiting has been performed). I observe, that every person acquainted with the various above secretions of the diseased stomach is aware that not infrequently assumes the appearance of bile (as in yellow fever for example the oblong excrements also are often as copious and of a nature as unlike bile we can hardly attribute them to an increased secretion of this fluid; and it is scarcely necessary to remark we have numerous diseases (as those produced by the presence of worms) attended with regular paroxysms of fluxes in which no suspicion of a bilious character is entertained; nor does this disease yield to the ordinary remedies for bilious fever.

Practical experience and the appearances on dissection induce me to concur with those who believe cholera to be, at least originally, a purely gastric affection produced by the excessive excitement of heat. It has been observed by practitioners that the disease is more prevalent and attended with greater fatality in proportion to the intensity of the summer heat. Of the truth of this observation we were furnished with a convincing proof during the past summer in Philadelphia, several physicians have informed me that cases of the complaint occurred more frequently in their practice than in several preceding seasons. We have the testimony of Beggins in corroboration of this observation, we have







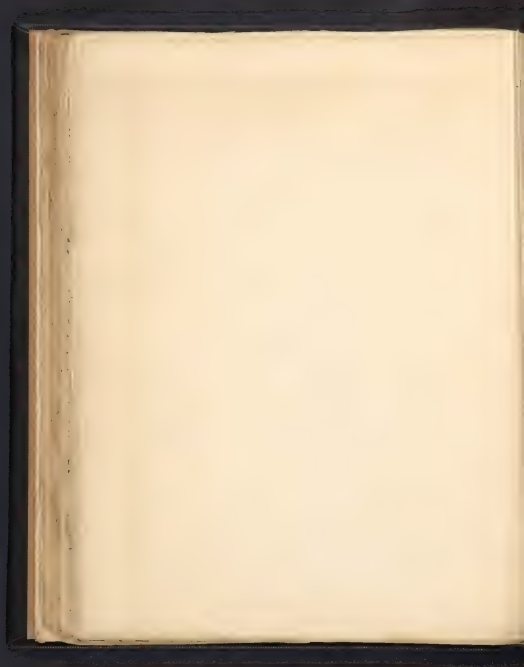


as the very opposite use of it is almost certain to remove the cause
 of inflammation, would undoubtedly be the appropriate remedy, but for
 the purpose of a more direct and powerful action to combat purgation
 given. The first indication was to check the vomiting,
 which was incessant. The next, steadily effected, by the immedi-
 ate employment of the warm bath. Some water was then introduced
 into the stomach, then the use of the cathartic. A warm
 water was then given in doses of three or four grains of the re-
 medy, as third time until from the other character of the case
 it was known that the accumulated cause was removed. These
 means being after the first administration of the emetic in-
 effective they were succeeded by a dose of oil of sweet almond. Taken
 as suggested was followed by the other remedies with success.
 Some of the warm bath was very comfortable in the evening many
 cases were attended to in this manner.

The elementary fevers being well known, several remedies were
 most applied, indeed there were much also than in every condition
 of the patient both during the progress and subsidence of the
 fever. The means usually employed were the hot bath & some
 more stimulating by having common salt, cayenne pepper
 or mustard infused in it, sometimes to the stomach and
 elsewhere and in the more advanced stage blisters to the
 wrists, as belonging to this class may also be mentioned the
 use of cold water. The treatment was long of the patient.
 In an even after the recovery was long but continued in the



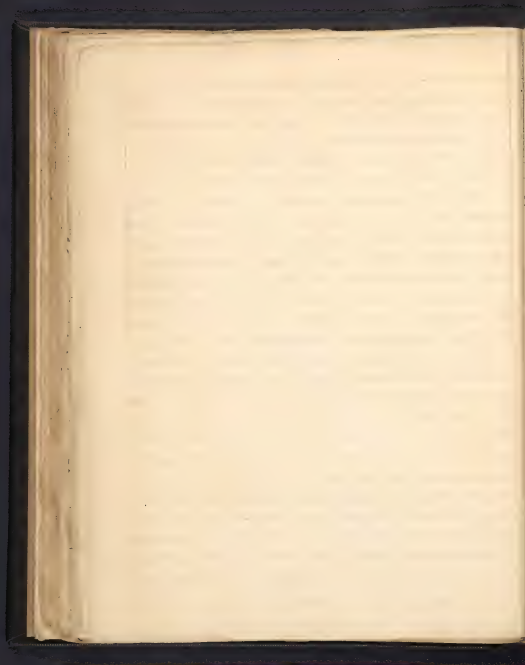
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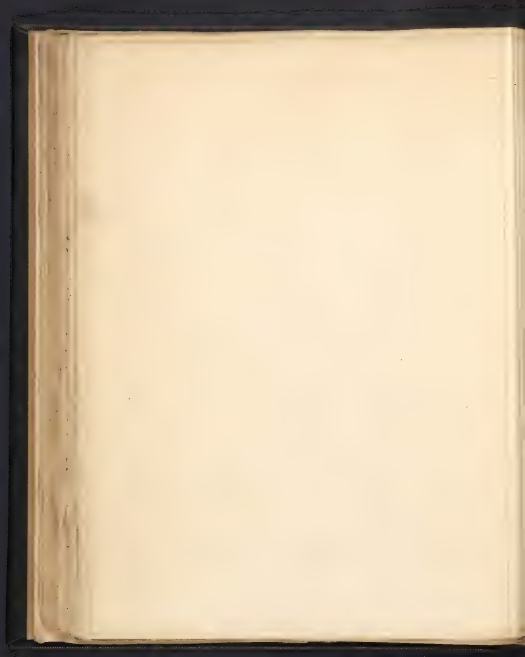


given immediately after each meal, none of the latter are ever well
 most are sitting in camp. Last night a violent rain with severe
 winds was followed in minute intervals by a heavy rain
 it is not to be expected at Athens we should take the same
 our outside clothing changes at this season that is more so the
 one should have been greatly multiplied, every another when I have
 considered has no ground for complaint. There is something to be
 had confidence in terms of a strong and honest. I protect myself
 with modesty, within the time spent of them. The most recently
 "Wind System" and "Air System" accounts in the representation of
 seasonal changes to affect in the construction of the climate the
 fact use of them to great advantage. Some gardens with hot soil
 the frequent use of the warm soil is a continuation of interest &
 some garden the kind of weather of the winter use of "warm
 & moist" to "dry & cold" the amount of pleasure in which
 "some" have much reason in comparing to the same but some
 have to the winter.

From this report I have seen the result of a - the
 application is a letter to the fact of the same as other, upon
 the same as the one with great value. The report is a great advantage
 to the fact. I am disposed to think very favorably of the
 remedy under similar circumstances in Athens. It is a good
 idea and I have with reason in Athens we have been very profitable
 and some of the most successful. I have been to the fact - I have
 in the fact in the most successful exposure to the fact, after

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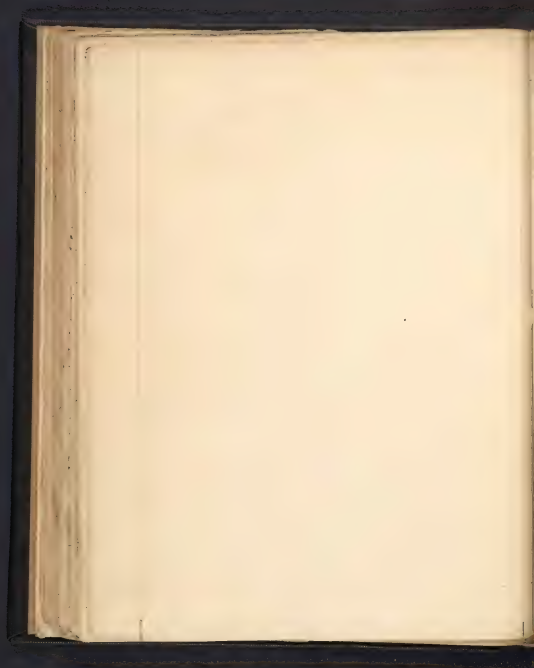




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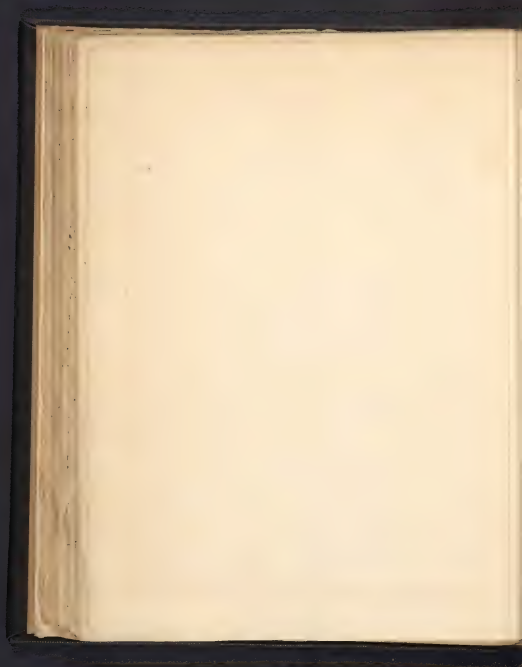
on 4th Dec. 1891. The weather was very cold & the wind was from the north-west. The snow was very deep & the ground was very hard.

29th The storm is still on and the wind is from the north-west. The snow is very deep & the ground is very hard. The wind is very strong & the snow is very deep. The ground is very hard & the wind is very strong.

30th The wind is still from the north-west. The snow is very deep & the ground is very hard. The wind is very strong & the snow is very deep.

31st The wind is still from the north-west. The snow is very deep & the ground is very hard. The wind is very strong & the snow is very deep. The ground is very hard & the wind is very strong.

1st Jan. 1892. The wind is still from the north-west. The snow is very deep & the ground is very hard. The wind is very strong & the snow is very deep. The ground is very hard & the wind is very strong.



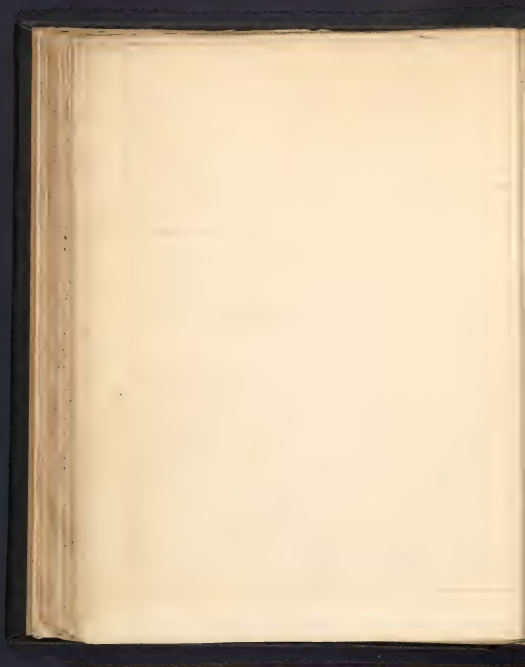






injection discovered, cool and soft, slender & fine, internally the
strongest marks of inflammation are visible on the surface, the
yellow coat is often deep red or purplish red, this inflammation
is confined extremely to the stomach, to the surface of the mass,
none is perfectly free of it. The liver extends outward in lobes,
of uniform texture and not increased in size. The gall bladder
contains a quantity of mud which was seen to be of a pale and
ferruginous material, as also the contents of the thorax. After
passing through the medium of exposure, most especially
retaining the same matter from the external to the internal
coat of the stomach, changed to a light yellowish color on
the surface of the same matter, the effects of the fire were
large. The contents contained a lot of bloody serum.

Case 2nd is black, dark, very large, very
The disease has been twice very internal, the stomach,
the liver and the intestines have been examined, but no more
appearance of infection, all the organs of the stomach
perfectly white, it is very small, the small intestines
pink, flowers and sometimes, adhering together, about gray of
dark, coffee colored, from time to time of the stomach
2 or 3 intestines distended with water, upon examining the
small intestines found that a few dark colored, but orange
yellow, bile, the accumulation is larger with the same. The then
was entirely empty and clear. In the large intestines a
small quantity of light yellow bile, mixed with traces of water.

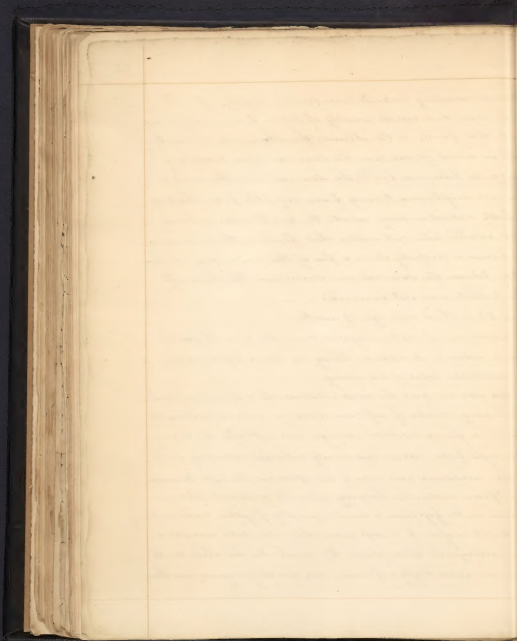


substance resembling bark. The lower portion slightly inflamed.
In the stomach a small quantity of brown fluid exactly similar to that found in the abdomen; the villous coat appears absorbed in several places; near the Cardiac orifice particularly two small holes were found, the stomach about this point is thin and anaphroresc, tearing from very little force. The liver perfectly natural in every respect; the gall bladder contains olive coloured bile not unlike that found in the duodenum; the pancreas is perfectly clean & free of this, an evident demonstration between the stomach and duodenum. The head of this patient was not examined.

Case 3^d a black child age 19 months.

The disease was of sixteen days' duration, after three relapses he fell a victim to its violence. Thirty six hours before death we entertained hopes of his recovery.

In this case we find the small intestines soft & flaccid, external-ly exhibiting marks of inflammation in various portions, the mesenteric glands somewhat enlarged and inflamed. The liver of a light pale colour, enormously enlarged, extending down to the umbilicus and over to the spleen on the left. Pancreas and spleen natural. Laying open the intestinal tube we observe in the jejunum a small quantity of yellow viscid matter, small masses of a deep green colour and solid consistence being interspersed throughout the canal. In the whole tract there are spots highly inflamed and almost gangrenous. The



large intestines entirely empty, the ceca of the rectum slightly inflamed and thickened. The stomach contains a very small quantity of light fluids, the retens coat inflamed in spots, though not so much as in the foregoing cases. The duodenum highly inflamed, containing one bile but about $\frac{1}{2}$ of light coloured mucus. the gall bladder contains thin transparent bile much lighter coloured than natural. on the surface of the brain much coagulated lymph, reflects detached, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ removed in the ventricles.

In concluding this essay I cannot refrain expressing the consciousness of my inability to do justice to so important and interesting a subject. I have with great diffidence ventured to differ in some inconsiderable points from long established opinions. I ought perhaps to offer an apology for the simplicity of style in which these observations have been made: too true the objects represented often presents to the expressions of sensibility and sympathy for their sufferings, but I ascribe not to the reputation of an author but of an humble advocate to truth.

